THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, November 6, 1809.

THE LONG PACK.

A TALE.

By the Ettrick Shepherd.

IN the year 1723, Colonel Ridley returned from India, with what in those days was counted an immense fortune, and retired to a country seat on the banks of North Tyne, in Northumberland, The house was re-built, and furnished with every thing elegant and costly; and amongst others, a service of plate supposed to be worth 1000l. He went to London annually with his family, during a few of the winter months, and at these times there were but few left at his country house. At the time we treat of, there were only three domestics remained there; a maid servant, whose name was Alice, kept the house, and two men, who threshed the corn and took care of some cattle, for the two ploughmen were boarded in houses of their own.

One afternoon as Alice was sitting spinning some yarn for a pair of stockings, to herself, a pedlar entered the hall with a comical pack on his back. Alice had seen as long a pack, and as broad a pack, but a pack equally as long, broad, and thick, she declared she never saw. It was about the middle of winter, when the days were short, and the nights cold, long, and wearisome. The pedlar was a handsome, well-dressed man, and very likely to be an agreeable companion for such a maid as Alice, on such a night as that; yet Alice declared, that from

the very beginning she did not like him greatly, and though he introduced himself with a little ribaldry, and a great deal of flattery interlarded, yet when he came to ask a night's lodging, he met with a peremptory refusal; he jested on the subject, said he believed she was in the right, for that it would be impossible for him to keep his own bed, and such a sweet creature lying alone under the same roof; took her on his knee, and ravished a kiss; but all would not do. "No, she would not consent to his staying there." "But are you really going to put me away to night?" "Yes." "Indeed, my dear girl, you must not be so unreasonable; I am come straight from Newcastle, where I have been purchasing a fresh stock of goods, which are so heavy that I cannot travel far with them, and as the people around are all of the poorer sort, I will rather make you a present of the greatest shawl in my pack before I go further." At the mentioning of the shawl, the picture of deliberation was pourtrayed in lively colours in Alice's face for a little; but her prudence overcame. "No, she was but a servant, and had orders to harbour no person about the house but such as came on business, nor they either, unless well acquainted with them." "What the worse can either your master, or you, or any other person, be, of suffering me to tarry until the morning?" "I intreat you do not insist, for here you cannot be." "But, indeed, I am not able to carry my goods further to-night." "Then you must leave them, or get a horse to carry them away." "Of all the inflexible beings ever I saw, thou art the first! But I cannot blame you, your resolution is just and right. Well, well, since no better may be, I must leave them, and go search for lodgings myself somewhere else, for, fatigued as I am, it is as much as my life is worth to endeavour carrying them further." Alice was rather taken at her word; she wanted nothing to do with his goods; the man was displeased at her, and might accuse her of stealing some of them; but it was an alternative she had proposed, and against which she could start no plausible objection, so she rather reluctantly consented. "But the pack will be better out of your way," said he, "and safer, if you will be so kind as lock it bye in some room or closet." She then led him into a low parlour, where he placed it carefully on two chairs, and went his way, wishing Alice a good night.

When Alice and the pack were left in the large house by themselves, she could not, for her life, quit thinking of the pack one moment. What was in it which made it so heavy that its owner could not carry it? She would go and see what was in it. It was a very curious pack. At least she would go and handle it, and see what she thought was in it. She went into the parlour—opened a wall-press; she wanted nothing in the press, she never so much as looked into it; her eyes were

fixed

fixed on the pack. "It was a very queer pack—it was square the one way, but not square the other way—it was a monstrous queer pack." It was now wearing late. She returned from the room in a sort of trepidation—sat down to her wheel, but could not spin one thread. "It is a droll pack yon! What made the man so very earnest with me to tarry all night? Never was man so importunate. What in the world has he got in it? Its a confounded queer pack after all; its so long and so thick. Its a terrible queer pack."

What surmises will fear not give rise to in the mind of a woman? She lighted a moulded candle, and went again into the parlour, closed the window shutters, and barred them; but before she came out, she set herself upright, held in her breath, and took another steady and scrutinizing look of the pack. God of mercy! she saw it moving as visibly as ever she saw any thing in her life. Every hair on her head stood upright. Every inch of flesh on her body crept like a nest of pismires. She hasted into the kitchen as fast as she could, for her knees bent under the load of terror that had overwhelmed the heart of poor Alice. She puffed out the candle, lighted it again, and, not being able to find a candlestick, though a dozen stood on the shelf in the fore kitchen, she set it in a water jug, and ran out to the barn for old Richard.

"Oh, Richard! Oh, for mercy, Richard, make haste and come into the house. Come away, Richard." "Why, what is the matter, Alice? what is wrong?" "Oh, Richard! a pedlar came into the hall, intreating for lodging. Well, I would not let him stay on any account, and behold he is gone off and left his pack." "And what is the great matter in that?" said Richard. "I will wager a penny he will look after it before it shall look after him." "But, Oh, Richard, I tremble to tell you! we are all gone, for it is a living pack." "A living pack," said Richard, staring at Alice, and letting his chops fall down. Richard had just lifted the flail over his head to begin threshing a sheaf; but when he heard of a living pack, he dropped one end of the hand-staff to the floor, and, leaning on the other, took such a look at Alice. He knew long before that Alice was beautiful; he knew that ten years before, but he never took such a look at her in his life. "A living pack!" said Richard. "Why the woman is mad without all doubts." "Oh, Richard! come away. Heaven knows what is in it! but I saw it moving as plainly as I see you at present. Make haste and come away, Richard."

Richard did not stand to expostulate any longer, nor even to put on his coat, but followed Alice into the house, assuring her by the way, that it was nothing but a whim, and of a piece with many of her phantages. "But," added he, "of all the foolish ideas that ever possessed thy brain, this is the most unfeasible,

feasible, and unnatural, and impossible. How can a pack, made of napkins, and muslins, and corduroy breeches, perhaps, ever become alive? It is even worse than to suppose a horse's hair will turn an eel." So saying, he lifted the candle out of the jug, and, turning about, never stopped 'till he had his hand upon the pack. He felt the bales that surrounded its edges to prevent the goods being rumpled and spoiled, by carrying the cords that bound it, and the canvass in which it was wrapped. The pack was well enough. He found nought about it that other packs wanted; it was just like other packs made up of the same stuff; he saw nought that ailed it; and a good large pack it was; it would cost the honest man 200l. if not more; it would cost him more, but he would make it all up again by cheating fools, like Alice, with his gewgaws. Alice testified some little disappointment at seeing Richard unconvinced, even by ocular proof. She wished she had never seen either him or it howsoever, for she was convinced there was something mysterious about it; that they were stolen goods, or something that way; and she was terrified to stay in the house with it. But Richard assured her the pack was right enough.

(To be continued.)

Description of a new Fence for enclosing Pleasure Grounds, invented by Mr. James Pilton, King's-Road, Chelsea.

THE basis of the invisible fence is elastic iron wire, manufactured, prepared, and applied by a process discovered and matured by Mr. Pilton. Of this infrangible material, which, for the main-wires, must be drawn out to the thickness of a small reed, continuous strings are inserted horizontally through upright iron stancheons; the interval between the strings is about nine inches; between the stancheons about seven feet. The horizontal wires, in a state of tension, are fastened to two main-stancheons at the extremities of the fence, passing at freedom through holes drilled in the intermediate stancheons. The tension of each horizontal wire is preserved by the superior stability of the extreme stancheons, on the construction of which, and the mechanism of the base-work, the whole, as a barrier against heavy cattle, depends. When the extent of the fence is great, the main stancheons are relieved, at expedient distances, by other principal stancheons. An improvement in the mode of joining horizontal wires, qualifies every part of the length equally to bear the highest degree of tension.

The invisible fence in this simple form of the height of three feet six inches, has, in the royal pleasure grounds at Frogmore, and

and in various parks of the nobility and gentry, been invariably found adequate to exclude the largest and strongest kinds of grazing stock. Increased in height two feet, the fence becomes applicable to deer parks. Deer have never been found to injure it, or attempt to leap it, and appear to avoid it as a snare, probably deterred by its transparent appearance. When it is intended to keep lambs out of plantations, perpendicular wires, comparatively small, are interwoven upon the lower horizontal wires; and to protect flowers and exotics from hares and rabbits, it is only necessary to narrow the interstices, by minute additions to the upright wires. On substances so small, presenting a round surface, neither rain nor snow can lodge; independent of which, by a coating of paint, they are preserved from the effects of the weather.

The strength attained by the principles on which the materials are manufactured, and the erection of the fence is conducted, cannot be justly conceived but by a person who has witnessed the effect of a considerable force impressed or weight lodged on a single wire of a fence erected.

The tempered elasticity of the tort string allows it to bend, and, on the removal of the oppressing force, the vigorous recoil of the wire, vibrating 'till it re-assumes a perfectly strait line, shews that a violent shock cannot warp it.

CHARACTER *of* COUNSELLOR DALLAS.

[As given in Letters from an Irish Student in England, to his Father in Ireland, published this Year.]

MR. DALLAS is, in my opinion, the most elegant orator at the bar. Unfortunately he has much withdrawn himself from its practice. His voice is exquisitely sweet; his argument solid; and his language very chaste and beautiful. To all these qualities he unites all the polite manners of a gentleman, and never degrades that character by his treatment of witnesses who are adverse to the side he is retained upon. Mr. Dallas is the only advocate who offers some indemnity for the heavy loss which the British bar sustained when Mr. Erskine, now Lord Erskine, was elevated to the seals. How much do I regret that I never heard this distinguished orator before that event, in the early and habitual theatre of his great talents! I know of no other advocate much distinguished for ability in the court of king's bench, or in any other court, except Sir Samuel Romilly, in the court of chancery, where his practice is very deservedly great. In depth of learning, and on all occasions where the subject will admit, in the effusions of genuine eloquence, this upright and excellent lawyer is unrivalled

in the court of equity. It is said of him, that, like the late Mr. Pitt, he is very fond of unbending his mind, by the perusal of novels, which afford him so much relief in the hours of relaxation, that he has the reputation amongst those who know him intimately, of perusing almost every novel that is published.

The British bar is crowded with votaries for practice and distinction, hundreds of whom, in all probability, will never even have the felicity of making a half-guinea motion. Upon the whole I am much disappointed in the talent I expected to find. The best of the English pleaders would suffer by a comparison with Curran, (whose elevation to the rolls of Ireland, I shall, for many reasons, regret,) M'Nally, and others, whom I could name in our own country.

Description of Sydney Town, the Capital of the English Colonies, in New South Wales.

[Continued from Page 864.]

AT the east point of the creek is a second battery, the fire of which crosses that of the signal station. The one of which I am now speaking, was dismantled at the time of our arrival at Port Jackson; but it has been put in order since our departure. On the shore, as you approach the town, is a small salt-pit, where the Americans, who were allowed to settle for the purpose at Port Jackson, in 1795, prepared most of the salt used in the colony. Farther on, and towards the bottom of the harbour, is the part called Government Creek, because it is reserved for the agents and vessels of the state. Between this creek and the salt-pit, is the place for docking and careening the ships. The natural quays are so perpendicular, and well formed, that without any kind of labour or expence, on the part of the English, the largest ships might be laid along them in perfect security. Near the Government Creek are three public magazines, one of which contains all the articles necessary for the various purposes of domestic life, such as earthenware, household furniture, culinary utensils, instruments of agriculture, &c. The number of these articles that is here amassed, is truly astonishing, and the mode in which they are delivered out, is wise and salutary. In this distant country, the merchandizes of Europe bear so high a price, that it would have been next to impossible for the population to procure such as are indispensable to the common wants of life: the English government has therefore anticipated these wants, by filling large store-houses with every article that can be required, all of which are delivered to the colonists,

colonists, at fixed prices, that are extremely moderate; sometimes even below what they cost in Europe. But in order to prevent avaricious speculations, or waste, no one is admitted into these depots without a written order from the governor; in which are specified the articles that the bearer is in need of. In another house are preserved the different uniforms and cloathing for the troops and convicts, as well as vast quantities of sail-cloth and cordage for the government ships. The last of the three buildings just mentioned is a kind of public manufactory; in which are employed female convicts. Behind these magazines is the governor's house, which is built in the Italian style, surrounded by a colonnade, as simple as it is elegant, and in front of which is a fine garden, that descends to the sea-shore: already in this garden may be seen, the Norfolk island pine, the superb Columbia, growing by the side of the bambou of Asia: farther on is the Portugal orange, and Canary fig, ripening beneath the shade of the French apple-tree: the cherry, peach, pear, and apricot, are interspersed amongst the Banksia, Metrosideros, Correa, Melaleuca, Casuarina, Eucalyptus, and a great number of other indigenous trees. Beyond the government garden, on the other side of a neighbouring hill, is the windmill, the bakehouse, and the state ovens, that are used for making ship biscuit: these are capable of furnishing from fifteen to eighteen hundred pounds per day. Not far from a contiguous creek, at a spot which the natives call Wallamoula, is the charming habitation of Mr. Palmer, the commissary general; a rivulet of fresh water runs before it, and empties itself into the creek, which here forms a safe and convenient basin. Here Mr. Palmer has built several small vessels, which he employs in whale fishing, and catching phocæ, or sea elephants, either at New Zealand, or in Bass's Straits. The neighbouring brick-fields furnish a considerable quantity of bricks and tiles, for the public and private buildings of the colony.

A short distance to the southward of Sydney Town, to the left of the great road that leads to Parramatta, you observe the remains of the first gibbet that was erected on the continent of New Holland. The increase of habitations having caused it to be, as it were, surrounded, it has been succeeded by another, that has been erected farther off, in the same direction, and near the village of Brick-field. This village, which consists of about two score of houses, contains several manufactories of tiles, earthenware, crockery, &c. its scite is agreeable, and the soil less sterile than that of Sydney, is better adapted to the different kinds of cultivation that have been introduced into these distant regions.

The great road just mentioned, passes through the middle of Brick-field; while a small rivulet intersects it, in an opposite

direction; between this village and Sydney Town is the public burying-ground, which is already rendered an object of interest and curiosity, by several striking monuments that have been erected in it; and the execution of which is much better than could reasonably have been expected from the state of the arts, in so young a colony.

A crowd of objects, equally interesting, demanded our notice in every direction. In the port we saw, drawn up together, a number of vessels that had arrived from different parts of the world, and most of which were destined to perform new and difficult voyages. Some of them had come from the banks of the Thames, or the Shannon, to pursue whale-fishing, on the frigid shores of New Zealand: others, bound to China, after depositing the freight which they had received from the English government, for this colony, were preparing to sail for the mouth of the Yellow river; while some, laden with pit-coal, were about to convey that precious combustible to India, and the Cape of Good Hope. Several smaller vessels were on their way to Bass's Straits, to receive skins, collected by a few individuals, who had established themselves on the isles of those straits, to catch the marine animals that resort to them. Other ships, stronger built than those just alluded to, and manned by more numerous and daring crews, who were provided with all kinds of arms, were on the point of sailing for the western coast of America. Laden with various sorts of merchandize, these vessels were intended to carry on, by force of arms, a contraband trade on the Peruvian shores, which could not fail to prove extremely advantageous to the adventurers. Here they were preparing an expedition, to carry on a skin trade, with the people of the north-west shores of America; there all hands were engaged in sending off a fleet of provision-ships to the navigators', the friendly, and the society, islands, to procure for the colony a stock of salt provisions. At the same time, the intrepid Captain Flinders, after effecting a junction with his companion-ship, the Lady Nelson, was getting ready to continue his grand voyage round New Holland; a voyage which was soon afterwards terminated by the greatest misfortunes. In short, at this period, the harbour of Port Jackson had become familiar to the American navigators, and their flag was continually flying in it, during our residence.

All these great maritime operations gave to the place a character of importance and activity, far beyond what we expected to meet with on shores, scarcely known to Europeans, even by name, and the interest we took in the scene, was only equalled by our admiration.

The population of the colony was to us a new subject of astonishment and contemplation. Perhaps there never was a more worthy object of study presented to the philosopher;

never was the influence of social institutions proved in a manner more striking and honourable to the distant country in question. Here we found united, like one family, those banditti, who had so long been the terror of their mother country: repelled from European society, and sent off to the extremity of the globe; placed from the very hour of their exile, in a state between the certainty of chastisement, and the hope of a better fate; incessantly subjected to an inspection, as inflexible as it is active, they have been compelled to abandon their anti-social manners; and the majority of them, having expiated their crimes, by a hard period of slavery, have been restored to the rank which they held amongst their fellowmen. Obliged to interest themselves in the maintenance of order and justice, for the purpose of preserving the property which they have acquired; while they behold themselves in the situation of husbands and fathers, they have the most interesting and powerful motives for becoming good members of the community in which they exist.

The same revolution, effected by the same means, has taken place amongst the women: and those who were wretched prostitutes, have imperceptibly been brought to a regular mode of life; and now form intelligent and laborious mothers of families.

While we were reflecting on these numerous and interesting subjects, all the officers and principal citizens of the colony were unremitting in their assiduities towards us. Our numerous sick were received into the government hospital, where the English surgeons paid them all possible attention. Doctor Thomson, the chief physician of the colony, directed the mode of treatment with the greatest tenderness: and whatever we were in need of, that the place could furnish, was put at our disposal. The governor-general gave us an unlimited credit on the public treasury, and our commodore was furnished with royal printed checks to fill up, with any sum that he might wish for; and these checks, without any other security than the signature of the French commandant, were accepted by the inhabitants, with a confidence highly honourable to the government of our country. Our salt provisions, spirits, and biscuits, were exhausted; but by means of these checks we obtained fresh supplies; and several times the magazines of the colony were opened to supply us with articles, which our agents could not procure. Thus, by this generous relief, we were enabled to re-clothe our crews, who were in want of every thing; repair our ships; purchase one, instead of that we had lost; and be completely prepared for continuing our voyage.

At the same time, our scientific researches met with every encouragement; a guard of English soldiers was appointed

expressly to protect our observatory, which we placed on the north point of the eastern bank of Sydney Cove. The whole of the country was open to the excursions of our naturalists, and we were even permitted to wear our arms, as were the persons of our suite: while guides and interpreters were furnished us, for our longest journies. In short, the English government behaved to us with such generosity, that they acquired our warmest gratitude.

(To be continued.)

ON *the* NATURE *of the* DIVINE BEING.

THE Nature of the Divine Being, Addison says, (following Locke in the cast of thought) "by adding infinity to any kind of perfection we enjoy, and by joining all these different kinds of perfections in one Being, we form our idea of the great Sovereign of Nature." The words are beautiful, but it may be doubted whether the doctrine they recommend is just. The imagination, in the enthusiasm of its wanderings, pictures a Deity formed like man, but in man's noblest features. A difficulty, however, occurs: Youth, though perfect in beauty, grace, and dignity, fails to impress, on the mind of the spectator, distinct ideas of reverence; since youth must want experience, which is the parent of that sober wisdom that awes through superiority. If, however, the imaginist designs his Deity in the mellow tints of age, which is the aspect that conveys the ideas of majesty and wisdom mingled with benevolence, he certainly must err; since the Eternal Being can never be supposed susceptible to the influence of time.

Again, the chief perfections on which we pride ourselves, those nobler sensations of the mind—pity, hope, generosity, and the like, even with infinitude superadded, seem illcalculated to share the transcendant magnificence of the Supreme Mind. I hope I am not venturing too far when I say that pity, in its most exalted capacity, seems too mean an attribute for the breast of Omnipotence.) Is it not somewhat like arraigning the justice of the Divinity to imagine him capable of creating beings so ordinanced as to perpetually exact the pity of their Creator? since pity, though pleasing to sympathising feelings, implies a want of those opportunities that would afford effectual commiseration.

Hope would appear a quality foreign to the nature of Omniscience. Where the past, the present, and the future, lie unfolded, there seems to be no room for the exercise of hope. Nor do the pleasures of generosity, so sublimely grateful to the human mind, appear sufficiently exalted for the breast of

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the Almighty. Generosity can exist only in the instance of self-denial. No man can be accounted generous who does not overcome inducements to self-gratification. The mercy of the godhead must surely be of a celestial kind, unknown to the bosom agitated by a war of contrarieties. A clemency too pure to be expressed even by an infinity of that forbearance that gives self-applause to the feelings of humanity.

The Almighty in bestowing the passions on mankind has wisely rendered the exercise of each a pleasure; but is there not presumption in supposing that the most pleasurable of the sensations requisite for the virtue of man, in his terrestrial circumstances, constitute the mind of the Being who is at once—virtue, immutability, and perfection?

In fine, it appears that Omnipotence and Omniscience can never be imagined, by a combination of even the noblest faculties of mortals, weak and circumscribed in effort; and dark, erroneous, and futile, in capacities of mind.

It must be admitted, that we can form no immediate conception of the mighty Sovereign of Nature, unless we congregate the most noble objects that his works present; but, with deference, such does not appear to be a justifiable attempt. Nor does it appear that religion is likely to be less fervent, though it worships a Being whose nature is held too awful for contemplation; though human pride may be gratified by forming a divinity from the more splendid parts of its own composition.

GIFT *of* TONGUES.

THERE is a passage in Clemens Alexandrinus, (but the memorandum of reference has been lost) in which he states it to have been customary in the synagogues of Alexandria, and other Mediterranean sea-ports, to say the public prayers in three different languages, Syriac, Greek, and Latin, for the accommodation of foreign traders and sailors. Each sentence was repeated in each language before the next sentence was begun; as if we were to deliver the Lord's prayer thus: Our father, who art in heaven:" *Notre père qui es aux cieux*; *Unser vater, der du in himmel bist.* "Hallowed by thy name:" *Sanctifié soit ton nom*; *Geheiliget werde dein nahme, &c.*

The habit, skill, facility or faculty of making these macaronic prayers appears to have been called *the gift of tongues.* It was justly said to be bestowed by the religious or holy spirit, because the requisite labour of acquirement was incurred for a holy or religious purpose. We still say of a student of theology in the presbyterian schools, that he has an excellent *gift of prayer,* which he has learned to pray extempore, with eloquence: and we might with propriety say, that he owes the

gift of prayer to the holy spirit which possesses him. Some personifications originally allegoric, may easily have attained a mythological signification; and some expressions originally emblematic, have acquired an epic reality, in passing from the lips of the assertor to the pen of the narrator, even where both endeavoured to be strictly faithful. At least in reading Peter's, or Luke's account of the gift of tongues, one is at first led to suspect a miraculous interposition; yet, in the course of the apostolic history, one finds the very persons recurring to interpreters, who in some measure were partakers of this gift. This is symptomatic of limited human acquirement. But on this part of the subject Middleton has treated admirably and sufficiently.

Would it not be worth while in our own sea-ports to open chapels where the liturgy might be repeated alternately in English, French, and Dutch? Such places of worship would be good schools of language to children intended for the counting-house; and we should soon get over the ridicule of hearing a priest,

> "Like Cerberus himself pronounce
> A leash of languages at once."

Principal Incidents in the Life of the late Matthew Boulton, Esq. Fellow of the Royal Societies of London and Edinburgh, &c.

IF genius and indefatigable industry, directed by the purest patriotism, have any claim to notice, an account of this gentleman cannot but be highly acceptable. When we contemplate the enlarged extent of his views, the wide and rapid circulation of his improvements and discoveries in the most important branches of art, and the numerous and honourable connections which he has formed in every part of the civilized world, we shall be obliged to admit that few men possess greater claims to the attention and gratitude of their country.

Matthew Boulton, son of Matthew Boulton, by Christian, daughter of Mr. Peers, of Chester, was born at Birmingham, the 14th of September, 1728. He received the chief part of his education at a private grammar school, kept by the Rev. Mr. Ansted, who officiated at St. John's chapel, Deritend. So early as the year 1745, Mr. Boulton having lost his father, who left him in flourishing circumstances, distinguished himself by the invention of a new and most ingenious method of inlaying steel. Buckles, watch chains, and a great variety of other articles, wrought at his manufactory, were exported in large quantities to France, where they were eagerly purchased by the English,

English, who affected to have no taste for the productions of their own country.

The confinement of a populous town was but ill suited to such an establishment as soon became necessary for Mr. Boulton's farther experiments. Accordingly, in the year 1762, he purchased those extensive tracts of common, at that time a barren heath, with only a small house and mill, on which the Soho manufactory, at Birmingham, now stands. He laid the foundation of his present extensive works at the expence of 9000l. To this spot his liberal patronage soon attracted great numbers of ingenious men from all parts, and by their aid he so eminently succeeded in imitating the *or molu*, that the most splendid apartments in this and in many foreign countries received their ornaments from Soho. Here too the works of the greatest masters in oil colours were mechanically taken off, with such ease and exactness, that the original could scarcely be distinguished from the copy. This mode of copying was invented by the late Mr. Eggington, whose performances in stained glass afterwards introduced his name to public notice. The utmost power of the water mill, which Mr. Boulton had hitherto employed, fell infinitely short, even with the aid of horses, of that immense force which was soon found necessary to the completion of his designs. Recourse was therefore had, about the year 1767, to that *chef d'œuvre* of human ingenuity, the steam engine. The first that Mr. Boulton constructed was on M. Savary's plan; but the machine was yet, as it were, in its infancy, and by no means answered Mr. Boulton's expectations.

In the year 1769, Mr. James Watt, of Glasgow, obtained a patent for such a prodigious improvement of it, that Mr. Boulton immediately sought his acquaintance, and induced him to settle at Soho. At this place the facility of its application to a variety of concerns, wherein great force was requisite, soon manifested its superior utility and vast advantages to the public; parliament, therefore, in 1775, cheerfully granted a prolongation of Mr. Watt's patent for twenty-five years. A partnership now commenced between Messrs. Boulton and Watt; and a manufactory of steam engines, on their improved plan, was established at Soho, which still supplies the chief mines and manufactories throughout the kingdom.

Aided by such talents, and commanding such unlimited mechanical powers, Mr. Boulton's views soon expanded, and Soho began to exhibit symptoms of the extraordinary advantages it had acquired. The art of coining had long stood in need of simplification and arrangement, and to this art Mr. Boulton no sooner turned his attention, than, about the year 1788, he erected a coining mill, on an improved plan, and struck a gold medal of the full weight of a guinea, and of the same form as

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that of his new copper coinage lately put into circulation. The superior advantages of that form are obvious. The impression is far less liable to friction; and by means of a steel gauge of equal diameter, money coined on that principle may be examined by measure as well as by weight, the rim being exactly circular. Moreover, the intrinsic is so nearly equal to the current value of every piece, that, without a steam engine and adequate apparatus, every attempt to counterfeit the Soho coinage must be made with loss. The fabrication of base money seems likely, by these means, to be speedily checked, and, it is to be hoped, entirely defeated. The mill at Soho works eight machines, each of which receives, stamps, and delivers out, by the aid of only a little boy, from seventy to ninety pieces of copper in one minute. Either of them is stopped without the smallest interruption to the motion of the others. In adjoining apartments all the preparatory processes are carried on with equal facility and dispatch; such as rolling the copper into sheets, dividing them into blanks, and shaking them into bags clean and ready for the die. Without any personal communication between the different classes of workmen, the blanks are conveyed to the room where they are shaken, and from thence to the coining room in boxes moving with immense velocity on an inclined plane, and accompanied by a ticket of their weight.

The Sierra Leone company have employed Mr. Boulton's mint in the coinage of silver, and the East-India company in that of copper. He has also sent two complete mints to Petersburgh. Mr. Boulton having presented the late Emperor Paul I. with some of the most curious articles of his manufactory, in return received a polite letter of thanks and approbation, together with a splendid collection of medals, minerals from Siberia, and specimens of all the modern money of Russia. With the view of still further improving and facilitating the manufactory of steam engines, Messrs. Boulton and Watt, in conjunction with their sons, established a foundery at Smethwick, a short distance from Soho. Here that powerful agent is employed, as it were, to multiply itself, and its various parts are fabricated and adapted together with the same regularity, neatness, and expedition, which distinguish all the operations of their manufactory. Those engines are afterwards distributed to all parts of the kingdom by the Birmingham canal, which communicates with a wet dock belonging to the foundery.

It could scarcely be expected that envy would view with indifference such singular merit, and such unexampled success. The inventions and improvements of Messrs. Boulton and Watt were first imitated, and then either decried or disputed. Reason laboured in vain to silence the clamours of injustice,

and to defeat the stratagems of fraud. At length, in the year 1792, a solemn decision of parliament, and, about the same time, the concurrent opinion of the court of king's bench, forbade any further encroachment. The last discovery for which Mr. Boulton obtained a patent, was the important "Method of raising Water and other Fluids."

Whoever contemplates the merit and utility of a long life devoted to such valuable pursuits, as we have here briefly and very imperfectly described, and recollects, without emotion, that the spot on which so much has been done, and is still doing; where hundreds of women and children easily earn a comfortable subsistence; where population is rapidly increasing, and the means of national prosperity improving in proportion, was lately a bleak, swampy, and sterile waste, must want understanding to comprehend, or sympathy to appreciate, the happiness of his fellow-creatures.

To comment upon the private character of a gentleman in Mr. Boulton's situation, would be an useless task; we shall therefore only observe, that as his great and expanded mind formed and brought to perfection the wonderful works we have briefly endeavoured to describe, so he felt no greater felicity than that of diffusing happiness to all around him. For a long time previous to his decease, he had been confined to his room by illness, and his dissolution daily expected. His memory will ever remain dear to the British nation, whose glory was advanced in proportion to his own fame. While we commemorate those great men who have sought their country's honour in the fields of war, we ought not to omit paying a just tribute of applause to those who have promoted arts, industry, and commerce, and diffused plenty and comfort through the realm, by cultivating science, and applying it to the useful arts of peace.

He was buried on Thursday, the 24th of August, at Handsworth, near Soho. A hearse and nine mourning coaches attended, followed by numerous carriages of his friends. All the beadles in Birmingham rode on horseback, and kept open the way. The corpse, carried by three sets of bearers, was followed by 600 workmen, each of whom had a silver medal presented to him, struck for the occasion.

The Love of Croaking—Man never satisfied with the present.

To the PRINTER.

SIR,

TO declaim against our own times seems to be the common and unalienable privilege of man. We always find, in that

that which is gone, something to please us which we cannot discover in that which we have. I have known a man who never put on a new coat without sighing over the ruins of the old one he was discarding; and a lady of my acquaintance, who seldom keeps a servant longer than a month, never fails to commemorate the merits of those that are discharged. But this love of the past, and this disgust of the present, are more vehemently expressed when we compare our own times with the happy era of our ancestors. Then it is that we are overwhelmed with regret and terror to find ourselves born in an age of total degeneracy; of degeneracy that threatens, by the dissolution of all moral ties, the most awful evils upon society. Such universal turpitude never could have existed at any former period.

Mr. Harris, of Salisbury, was once amusing a friend, who was of a melancholy temper, by reading to him a passage from a book which detailed the gross enormities that were daily practised in England. His friend shrugged up his shoulders, sighed, and exclaimed, "Ah! too true; what a world! what can become of us! It is impossible that things can go on in this way for another twelvemonth! Ah, my friend! read no more; it distracts me." Mr. Harris, however, quieted his alarms and his distraction, by informing him that the book he was reading from was published in the sixteenth century. As, therefore, we had outlived such alarming symptoms for two centuries, there was good hope of longer existence.

There can be little doubt that this admiration of past times arises from that discontent of the human mind, by which it is never suffered to remain at peace. With the present we are never satisfied; and when we are not bewailing departed happiness, we are busy in anticipating future. To a being like man, born with hopes that are engrafted on his reason, and capable of progressive perfection, it is natural that he should not rest indolently contented. But while I thus dignify the principle, I blame the practice. It is the mark of a narrow understanding to find nothing laudable in the world we live in; and those who are most clamorous in depreciating their own times, do it from inability to talk better, or from habitual peevishness which casts a gloom round all the events of life.

NO CROAKER.

ESTHER INGLIS.

THE exquisite writing of this extraordinary woman has seldom been equalled, and never surpassed. Two specimens of her calligraphic skill are carefully preserved in the Bodleian library, at Oxford; one of these is entitled, "Les Proverbes

de Salomon, escrites en diverses sortes des Lettres par E. Anglois, Francoise. A Lislebourg en Escosse 1599." This performance is truly admirable: the dedication (to the earl of Essex), as well as each chapter, and some other less important divisions, being each written in a different hand, amounting in the whole to near forty. Each chapter is also decorated with a most beautiful head and tail piece, and the margins are elegantly ornamented with the pen, in imitation of the ancient illuminated manuscripts. At the beginning of the book, the arms of Essex are neatly delineated, with fifty-six quarterings, and on the fifth leaf is her own picture, drawn with the pen, in the dress of the day.

Another manuscript of her's is deposited in the library of Christ's Church. This contains the Psalms in French, and was presented by the writer of it to Queen Elizabeth. In the British Museum also is preserved "Esther Ingles's Fifty Emblems," which are beautifully written, and decorated with delineations. This bears the date of 1624.

GENUINE SPECIMEN OF ORTHOGRAPHY.

Mr S——Sir

AS it is Abuesey teyme With us AWheete Soeane I heape You Will have the Gudness to Exkuse Our goane oute to the heyways till we have got in the Mayner part of the Wheate, as it was A Late Harvest throene us back With the Wheate Soeane

In So Douen You Will Greateley Ablige Your Hutt St Sunday Evenen foare OClock * *******

ENCYCLOPEDY.

WHO first contrived these dictionaries of omniscience, which are become the cisterns of all modern knowledge?

Hermannus Torrentinus, of Zwol, in the Dutch province Overyssel, printed in 1510, at Haguenau, his alphabetic Elucidarius Carminum et Historiarum.

An augmented edition was published at Paris, in 1567, entitled Dictionarium Historicum, Geographicum, Poeticum, auctore Carolo Stephano, which had a vast run, which induced Nicholas Lloyd to publish at London, in 1670, a similar one.

At Basil, in 1677, Hoffmann edited his Lexicon Universale.

Harris's Lexicon Technicum, printed in London in 1704, was the first vernacular attempt of this kind; and Chambers's Cyclopædia imposed the now appropriated denomination.

Answer, by H. B. of Bridgewater, to Un Ami's Charade, inserted September 4.

THE PASTURE beautiful is seen
When nature's face is cloth'd in green.

☞ A similar answer has been received from J. W. Jones, of North Petherton; and W. Petherick, of St. Austell.

Answer, by J. W. Jones, of North Petherton, to G. Spry's Rebus, inserted the 11th of September.

SIMPERING smiles, and amorous blinks,
Are what delight the skittish MINX.

*** Similar answers have been received from J. Ball, and J. French, at Evershot-school; H. B. of Bridgewater; John Woodman, of North Curry; J. W. of Charmouth; and W. Petherick, of St. Austell.

Answer, by by R. Withall, of Plymouth, to J. W. Bynon's Charade, inserted the 11th of September.

TO thee, Oh God! we grateful accents raise,
And SUNDAY spend in solemn acts of praise.

*** Similar answers have been received from Claudius, of Yeovil; H. B. of Bridgewater; J. W. Jones, of North Petherton; J. C. jun. of Ottery; J. W. of Charmouth; T. Byrt, of Shepton Mallet; J. Kerby, of Helston; W. Petherick, of St. Austell; W. Kent, near Camelford; a youth of Mevagissey; Caroline Caines, of Lions-gate; C. Caines, at Cerne school; J. French, and J. Ball, at Evershot school; J. M. Carveth, near Mevagissey; S Tucker, of Bugford; T. Pearse, of Camelford; and J. Woodman, of North Curry.

A REBUS, *by R. Withall, of Plymouth.*

FOUR-FIFTHS of a month, and a pleasant retreat,
Will name you a fruit esteem'd by the great.

A REBUS, *by J. C. Jun. of Ottery St. Mary.*

MY first alarms when thieves are near
The cottage for to plunder;
A mark transpose, then will appear,
My next without a blunder:
The whole I doubt you'll soon unfold;
It oft secures us from the cold.

A CHARADE, *by J. A. Dyer, of Taunton.*

VIEW well my pompous first around,
For there magnificence is found;
Within my next, midst swelling waves,
The British sailor danger braves;
But landed on his native shore,
Of perils past he thinks no more:
My whole doth then his thoughts employ,
While all around is mirth and joy.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

JUBILEE.

On the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Accession of his Majesty King George the Third.

ENGLAND resound! We hail the joyful day
On which great George assum'd the kingly sway;
Twice five and twenty rolling years expire
To grace the brow of proud Britannia's sire.

Not one of all the potent line of kings,
From Edward Plant'genet*, an instance brings;
That honour was reserv'd for him alone,
The best and mildest of the British throne.

Since George has rul'd and steer'd the ship of state,
The waves have dash'd, the foamy billows beat;
Yet still triumphant master of the sea,
Our bark has sail'd the palm of liberty.

When Frenchmen rage, and haughty tyrants boast,
To raise their standards on the British coast;
Great Albion's monarch, with her free-born sons,
Defy their threats, and rally round their guns.

Plenty has strew'd her choicest favours here,
Reliev'd the poor, and wip'd the orphan tear;
Our worn-out vet'rans, in their nation's cause,
Are well supported, blest with lenient laws.

The retrospection of his glorious reign
Supports the hope he will his right maintain,
Preserve the freedom of the British isle,
His brilliant crown remit without a soil.

Hail providence divine! thy statutes shew
Heav'n's lasting grace, for Englishmen to know;
May special favours, special thanks employ,
And raise to thee, Oh God! the grateful joy!

To thee, Almighty Parent! we resign
Our honour'd king, our highly-favour'd clime;
May George the Third his lengthen'd sceptre bear
'Till ancient time gives place, Heaven's bliss to share!

Axminster.

* Edward III. who reigned fifty years and five months.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

ON HEARING OF A NEIGHBOUR'S DECEASE.

DEATH lately called near our abode,
Cloth'd in his native frown;

With

With his keen scythe he stalks abroad,
To mow his victims down.

How potent is his iron arm!
How cruel is his rage!
He disregards each youthful charm,
And prayer of hoary age.

Who knows but next he may call here,
And force us to depart?
Soon, very soon, he may appear,
And stop each beating heart.

The awful warning, timely given,
Let us improve below;
Lest we provoke the wrath of Heaven,
To strike the fatal blow.

Prepared may we his summons meet,
Without the least dismay;
And smiling the rude tyrant greet,
As we pass on our way:

Then he shall all our troubles end,
Nor shall we dread the foe;
Jehovah's arm shall us defend,
And bear us safely through.

Deck, Devon.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

SOLITUDE.

IT is not that my lot is low,
That bids this silent tear to flow;
It is not grief that bids me moan,
It is—that I am all alone.

In woods and glens I love to roam
When the tir'd hedger hies him home;
Or by the woodland pool to rest,
When pale the star gleams on its breast.

Yet when the silent evening sighs,
With hallow'd airs and symphonies;
My spirit takes another tone,
And sighs that it is all alone.

The autumn leaf is sear and dead,
It floats upon the water's bed;
I would not be a leaf to die
Without recording sorrow's sigh!

The woods and winds with sullen wail,
Tell all the same unvaried tale;
I've none to smile when I am free,
And when I sigh to sigh with me.

Yet in my dreams sometimes I see
A form that softly smiles on me;
I start, and when the vision's flown,
I weep that—I am all alone.

October 12, 1809.